9. (New) The composition according to Claim 8, further comprising a linking agent, wherein said linking agent is capable of joining said two free nucleic acid end parts.

10. (New) The composition according to Claim 9, wherein said linking agent is a ligase enzyme.

11. (New) The composition according to Claim 8, wherein said end parts further comprise a mutually chemically reactive compound.

12. (New) The composition according to any one of Claims 7-11, wherein said padlock probe comprises a non-natural nucleic acid or polymer.

Please cancel Claims 1-6 without prejudice to Applicant's rights to pursue the subject matter of these claims in one or more Continuation, Divisional or Continuation-In-Part applications.

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

– A padlock probe oligonucleotide having the following sequence: 5' P-TGG TGT TTC CTA TGA-((HEG2)C-B)4(HEG)2-AAG AAA TAT CAT CTT3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein P is a phosphate residue, HEG is hexaethylene glycol and C-B is a biotinylated C residue, was synthesized using a commercial DNA synthesizer. The two ends of the oligonucleotide were capable of base-pairing adjacent to each other with exon 9 of the CTFR gene contained in the double stranded plasmid pUC 19. –

On page 9, immediately preceding the claims, please insert the enclosed text entitled "SEQUENCE LISTING".

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as lacking an enabling description; and Claim 7 stands